

MECOSTA AUSTIN FIRE BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2016

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.**
- II. Roll Call: John Boyd, Michele Graham, Susan Sikkema, Elizabeth G Carr, John Brockway, and Greg Babbitt.**
- III. Additions to the Agenda: Add First Responder FEIN under #1 on Old Business.**
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Keith Babbitt to accept the addition to the agenda. Motion carried.**
- V. Minutes: Moved by Susan Sikkema, supported by John Brockway to approve the minutes. Accepted as presented.**
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Accepted as given subject to audit.**
- VII. Approval of the Bills: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Greg Babbitt to approve for payment Fire Department bills of \$20,083.98 and First Responder bills of \$1,202.63 with the addition of two payroll checks of \$72.00 and \$48.00 for a total of \$1,322.63. The treasurer was unable to write those two checks at the same time as the other payroll because she didn't have their W-2 information. Roll call vote: John Brockway-yes, Greg Babbitt-yes, Elizabeth G Carr-yes, Susan Sikkema-yes, Michele Graham-yes, and John Boyd-yes.**
- VIII. Public Comment: None**
- IX. Old Business:**
 - 1. FEIN: Moved by Susan Sikkema, supported by John Brockway to approve the application for the FEIN for the First Responders. Motion carried.**
- X. New Business:**
 - 1. Long Term Needs for the Joint Meeting: We are going to need to purchase our own washer and dryer for our turnout gear. We are required to wash them a certain amount of times a year. We have to use special washers and dryers. The washers cannot exceed a specific G-level when spinning and the**

dryers cannot exceed a certain temperature or else the special fibers of the turnout gear will be damaged. The cost right now is approximately \$12,505.00. The cement and parking lot are breaking up and need to be replaced. Estimated cost about \$30,000.00. Two pumps: 3000 gal/ 1250 gal. SCBA tanks by 2021. Right now they are about \$800.00/pc. Also presented lease information to consider leasing fire vehicles.

- 2. Fire Chief's Report: There were 18 incidents the department was called out on. To boost the VHF frequency we priced the cost to use the tower on Johnson's. The cost would be \$16,000.00/year. The county is going to conduct a hand's on study in February here and in Morley to put up a 100 ft. pole with antenna and necessary equipment to boost the signal. They will pick whichever sight has the best coverage and will cover all the costs of installation and equipment. The only cost the department would have, if this sight was picked, would be the electric to the pole. We have a new hire, Natacscha Warrington. She is already a trained fire fighter. She will be taking MFR training, also Kyle Vredenburg. She will need a complete set of turnout gear. Nothing we have fits her. She is a very good fire fighter and very committed. We will need to replace some other turn out gear, for a total of 4 sets of gear at a cost of approximately \$8,000.00**

Moved by Susan Sikkema, supported by John Brockway to buy four sets of turn out gear up to \$8,000.00. Roll Call Vote: John Brockway-yes, Greg Babbitt-yes, Elizabeth G Carr-yes, Susan Sikkema-yes, Michele Graham-yes, and John Boyd-yes.

Quinton Buss has resigned. We will be adding the Fire Department to the Active 911 system for a cost of \$130.00/yr. Each department will pay their share.

- 3. Training Report: CPR training is done. There is one more fire fighter that needs to get updated. This training is good for three years. The preschool came out for a field day and safety review. It was a great day. We showed them each truck and were able to talk to them, the parent chaperones, and teachers about many safety guidelines.**
- 4. Maintenance Report: Replaced the battery in the portable pump on grass rig 1. All the trucks are functioning properly from the normal truck checks. Replaced the water lines on the pump cooling system on Tender 2. Also replaced a couple of lights.**
- 5. MFR Report: We received an extra \$750.00 on our run reimbursement from a tax overage reimbursement from the county. This brought our run reimbursement up to \$32.60. Normally it runs around \$22. The first bi-annual disbursement of \$3,500.00 has been approved. Two firefighters will be starting MFR training, Kyle Vredenburg and Natascha Warrington. We had a total of 185 runs for 2015. 145-Mecosta Township, 28-Austin Township, 5-Mecosta Township Expressway, and 7-Other Townships.**

XI. Adjournment: 8:24 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Mecosta Austin Board Secretary